

b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a second fusion polypeptide component comprising the amino acid sequence of the cytokine binding portion of the extracellular domain of the signal transducing component of [the] a cytokine's receptor; and

c) a nucleotide sequence encoding a third fusion polypeptide component comprising the amino acid sequence of a multimerizing component.

2. (Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 26, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding the first component is upstream of the nucleotide sequence encoding the second component.

3. (Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 26, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding the first component is downstream of the nucleotide sequence encoding the second component.

4. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 26, wherein the cytokine receptor is the receptor for a member of the hematopoietin family of cytokines selected from the group consisting of interleukin-2, interleukin-3, interleukin-4, interleukin-5, interleukin-6, interleukin-7, interleukin-9, interleukin-11, interleukin-13, interleukin-15, granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor, oncostatin M, and leukemia inhibitory factor and cardiotrophin-1

5. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 26, wherein the cytokine receptor is the receptor for a member of the interferon family of cytokines selected from the group consisting of IFN-gamma, IFN-alpha, and IFN-beta.

6. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 26, wherein the cytokine receptor is the receptor for a member of the immunoglobulin superfamily of cytokines selected from the group consisting of B7.1 (CD80) and B7.2 (B70).

7. (Amended). The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 26, wherein the cytokine receptor is the receptor for a member of the TNF family of cytokines selected from the group consisting of TNF-alpha, TNF-beta, LT-beta, CD40 ligand, Fas ligand, CD 27 ligand, CD 30 ligand, and 4-1BBL.

8. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 26, wherein the cytokine receptor is the receptor for a member of the TGF- $\beta$ /BMP family selected from the group consisting of TGF- $\beta$ 1, TGF- $\beta$ 2, TGF- $\beta$ 3, BMP-2, BMP-3a, BMP-3b, BMP-4, BMP-5, BMP-6, BMP-7, BMP-8a, BMP-8b, BMP-9, BMP-10, BMP-11, BMP-15, BMP-16, endometrial bleeding associated factor (EBAF), growth differentiation factor-1 (GDF-1), GDF-2, GDF-3, GDF-5, GDF-6, GDF-7, GDF-8, GDF-9, GDF-12, GDF-14, mullerian inhibiting substance (MIS), activin-1, activin-2, activin-3, activin-4, and activin-5.

9. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 26, wherein the cytokine receptor is the receptor for a cytokine selected from the group consisting of interleukin-1, interleukin-10, interleukin-12, interleukin-14, interleukin-18 and MIF.

10. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 26, wherein the multimerizing component comprises an immunoglobulin derived domain.

12. (Amended) A fusion polypeptide encoded by the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 26.

15. (Amended) A vector which comprises the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 26.

16. (Amended) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 26, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to an expression control sequence.

26. (New). An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a fusion polypeptide that forms a dimer capable of binding a cytokine to form a nonfunctional complex, comprising:

a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a first fusion polypeptide component comprising the amino acid sequence of the cytokine binding portion of the extracellular domain of the specificity determining component of [the] a cytokine's receptor;

b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a second fusion polypeptide component comprising the amino acid sequence of the cytokine binding portion of the extracellular domain of the signal transducing component of [the] a cytokine's receptor; and

c) a nucleotide sequence encoding a third fusion polypeptide component comprising the amino acid sequence of a multimerizing component.

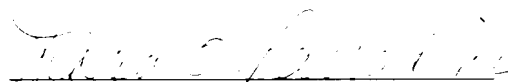
27. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 26, wherein the nucleotide sequences of a) and b) are from the same cytokine receptor.

28. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 26, wherein the nucleotide sequences of a) and b) are from different cytokine receptors.

Marked-up copies of amended claim pages 64-67 are set forth in Exhibit A and Substitute Sheets for amended claim pages 64-67 are set forth in Exhibit B.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with filing this Second Preliminary Amendment. However, if any fee is necessary, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such additional fee to Deposit Account No. 18-0650.

Respectfully submitted,



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